

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #25

February 2010

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Well, how many of you caught the errors in the November issue? First, your editor did not edit the directions to the November meeting. And because of that the meeting was listed as taking place on November 11, 2006! Hopefully not too many of you took that seriously. But second, and most important, there was also no notice that dues for 2010 should be paid. So here's what should have been said in November. **Mail your dues for 2010 to Bob King at the address shown at the bottom of this page.** Dues are still only \$10. Such a deal!

The next meeting of CARTS will be Saturday April 24 at the Holiday Inn Express in Clemmons, NC. This is on interstate 40 a bit west of Winston-Salem. Because of the early date of this meeting the May issue of CARTSNEWS will need to be in the mail by April 15 – with detailed directions to the meeting site. Thus, for this one time you should send all ads, articles, etc. to the editor by April 1 – no fooling.

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all CARTS members. I hope Santa Claus was good to all of you over the holidays. Personally, he left me off of his numismatic goodies list this year, but I made up for it with a few choice items purchased from other collectors or from eBay.

As CARTS begins its seventh year (this is the 25th issue of CARTSNEWS, can you believe it?), I want to send thank yous to a few people who have been instrumental in our success. A big tip of the hat goes to Don Bailey, who has put together the aforementioned 25 issues of our newsletter and has also worked in other capacities for our organization. Bob King deserves a pat on the back for serving the past 6 years as treasurer. Also, thanks are due to all members who have submitted articles for the newsletter. I believe it is one of the best regionally-oriented token newsletters around!

Thanks are also due to those members who donated items to our recent benefit auction. They are Don Bailey, Lamar Bland, myself, Bob King, Steve Ratliff, Wayne Saunders, and C.R. Clark. The auction was successful in raising almost \$250 for our treasury. This money will go a long way to help in keeping us solvent over the next year or two. See elsewhere in this issue for a list of the prices realized from the auction. There were some real bargains to be had and if you didn't attend the auction, you missed out on some decent items.

See elsewhere in this issue for information on our next meeting. Lamar Bland and Pete Oldham are selecting a site closer to their neck of the woods. Now, they'll get to sleep a little longer on the morning of our next meeting! And don't forget that this fall we will be having a joint meeting with our Southeastern Token Society brethren. I'm really looking forward to that one!

Happy Collecting,
Tony Chibbaro, CARTS President

First S.C. Merchant Countermark Surfaces

Tony Chibbaro

Countermarked coins, those interesting and peculiar relics of the 19th century, can be a rewarding form of exonumia to collect. For those unfamiliar with them, I personally like to view countermarked coins as hybrid amalgamations somewhat similar to encased cents or elongated coins, in other words, real coins that have been modified into exonomic items. Instead of carrying slogans or advertising messages stamped onto aluminum collars encircling the host coins (in the case of the more familiar “lucky pennies”), counterstamped coins carry their messages die-stamped onto the coins themselves, (more similar to elongated coins). One big difference, however, is that countermarked coins were intended to circulate freely throughout the economy.

While some countermarking of coinage persisted into the early 1900s, the vast majority of countermarked coins were placed into circulation in the 1800s. It went like this. Some merchant or tradesman wanted to advertise his business and would have a punch (similar to a small die) fabricated by a local blacksmith or machine shop. The merchant would then utilize the punch to stamp an advertising slogan or some other message onto as many circulating coins as possible. Think of it as a very inexpensive form of advertising. The coins cost no more than their face value, and after being countermarked, were spent back into circulation. The only permanent outlay was the cost for the fabrication of the punch.

Countermarks exist from the following types of merchants – saloonkeepers, druggists, bakers, patent medicine makers, coach makers, jewelers, hoteliers, and a plethora of other occupations. Some of the available countermarks read: “Drink Feigenspan's Lager”, “Shattuck's Water Cure”, “Miller's Hair Invigorator”, “Wood's Minstrels”, “Pear's Soap”, “Try Orey's Ointment”, “Kunkel's Opera Troupe”, “The Rathbun House”, and “Vote The Land Free” to name only a few. Other counterstamps only show the name of the particular merchant or tradesman who wished to have a little publicity. There are literally thousands which show only a name such as the two pictured below. Some of these “name only” countermarks can be attributed to city and state of issue just like maverick trade tokens. Such is the case with the “J. Yous” piece pictured below right.



**1873 US Quarter Dollar with
C. J. Heron Counterstamp**



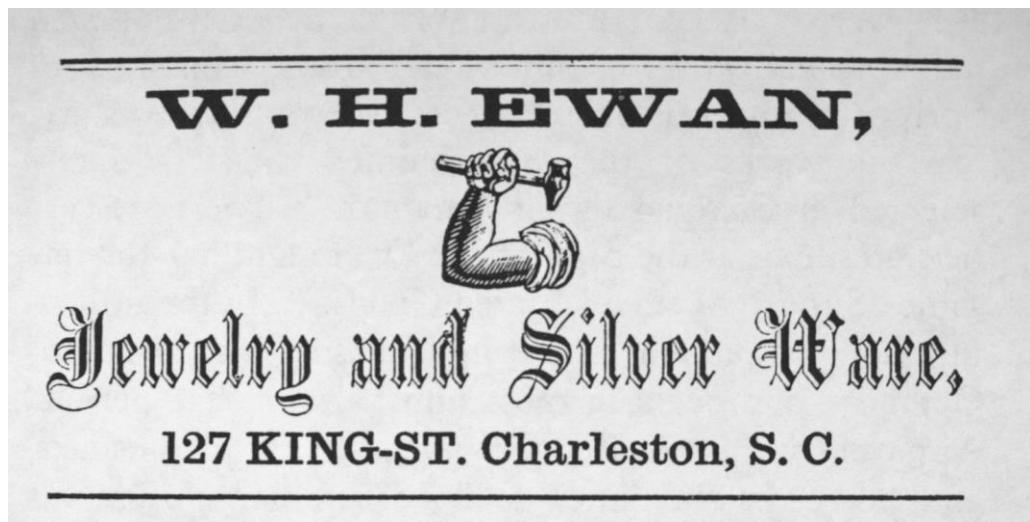
**1818 Large Cent with Counterstamp
of J. Yous, a Greencastle PA
Gunsmith**

This latter type with only the name of the issuing merchant or tradesman is the type which is the subject of the headline above. On eBay recently there appeared an auction lot with the following title: "Rare Early American Token Counterstamped Wm. H. Ewan." The item that was for sale is pictured below and, I am happy to say, now resides in my collection.



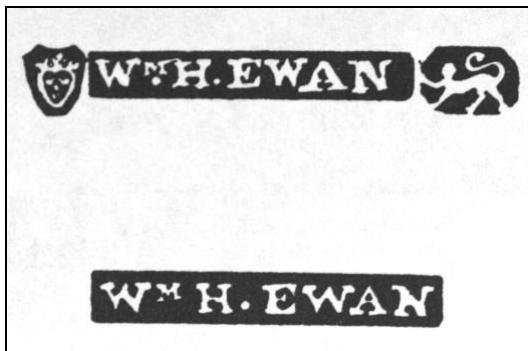
1782 Bolivian 2 Reales with counterstamp of Wm. H. Ewan

In the description below the title was the following notation – "Wm. H. Ewan was a silversmith in Charleston, South Carolina in the mid-1800s." Naturally, after reading that, my curiosity was piqued. To check the veracity of the seller's statement, that evening I checked my copy of Milby Burton's *South Carolina Silversmiths, 1690-1860*. Sure enough, listed on page 57 of that reference were a couple of paragraphs on Ewan's career in Charleston. William H. Ewan first appeared in city directories in the year 1849 with relative John Ewan (same career and possible father) at 131 King Street. In 1852 he served as administrator of the estate of the elder Ewan and took sole possession of the silverworking firm. The last mention of him in Charleston directories appears in 1859, with the advertisement pictured below.



Ewan's advertisement from the 1859 Charleston City Directory

Also appearing in Burton's reference work are two drawings (see below) of the countermarks that Ewan placed on his silverware. (The Charleston Museum, whose collection was used as the basis of the book, owns several pieces of Ewan's handiwork.) If you compare the line drawings with the countermark on the coin (see closeup below right) you will note that there is an exact match. It doesn't take a forensic scientist to see that Ewan used the same counterpunch to stamp the coin that he used to mark his silverware.



Countermarks on Ewan's silverware



Countermark on Ewan's coin

You will also note that the coin Ewan used for his countermark is not an American coin, as are the two other examples shown at the top of this article. Remember that foreign coins such as this Bolivian 2 Reales piece were commonly encountered in circulation in early America. Up until 1857, when they were demonetized, 2 Reales pieces of Spanish origin were one of the workhorses of the U.S. monetary system. Merchants used whatever coinage was at hand for their countermarks, and today they can be collected on coins of many different countries, all of them having circulated in the early United States.

Many coin collectors used to consider counterstamped coins to be "damaged" and they could occasionally be found at coin shows for sale at really cheap prices, but now they are rarely encountered, and if so, their prices have escalated. There are even a few modern novelty pieces, with messages stamped onto coins dated in the 2000s. The Confederate Battle Flag counterstamped onto year 2000 South Carolina state quarters comes immediately to mind, although there are others. Counterstamped coins have a long history in American numismatics and the field offers the collector an opportunity to participate in the pursuit of early American collectibles in a meaningful way.

BENEFIT AUCTION PRICES REALIZED
(Items 47 and 48 were received too late for mail bid)

Item	Price	Item	Price	Item	Price	Item	Price
1	\$1.00	13	\$1.00	25	\$3.00	37	\$18.00
2	\$1.00	14	\$1.00	26	\$2.00	38	\$16.00
3	\$2.25	15	\$20.00	27	\$1.85	39	\$10.00
4	\$1.00	16	\$5.00	28	\$2.00	40	\$3.00
5	\$1.75	17	\$2.00	29	\$1.60	41	\$11.00
6	\$1.25	18	\$2.50	30	\$2.25	42	\$18.00
7	\$1.50	19	\$1.00	31	\$3.00	43	\$3.00
8	\$5.00	20	\$17.00	32	\$2.00	44	\$16.00
9	\$1.00	21	\$4.00	33	\$8.00	45	\$4.00
10	\$5.00	22	\$2.00	34	\$10.00	46	\$2.00
11	\$2.00	23	\$1.00	35	\$5.00	47	\$5.00
12	\$3.00	24	\$2.00	36	\$6.00	48	\$6.00

WHY ARE TOKENS SCARCE?

Lamar Bland

Several CARTS members live, as I do, in North Carolina, a state whose tokens are particularly scarce. I've wondered what accounts for this scarcity. When I search for them in antique shops or coin stores, I usually hear that tokens don't have enough value to make them worth a dealer's effort to sell them. Families seem to think so too, as they often get boxed for decades with buttons or other ephemera until finally showing up in estate sales. So one reason for their scarcity is that tokens are devalued.

Another reason, of course, is that they have been minted in small quantities for use in remote regions. For example, the Ingle ledger lists tokens minted for the North Carolina locations of Parker, Wilbar, Tuxedo, and Caroleen. Few people would have lived there in the early 20th century to use them.

A more dramatic reason for their scarcity, however, is that business owners are responsible. Since many North Carolina areas supported large businesses, their owners would have ordered hundreds or thousands of them. I recently located two employee pay-tokens in the Erwin, N.C. Historical Museum; they were issued by The Erwin Cotton Mills in Duke, N.C. around 1920. One is shown below.



Staff at the museum insists on their scarcity, though during the 1920's the Duke Mill probably employed 2,000 or more workers. I visited the Erwin Museum on the recommendation of a local woman who said she had found a similar token in a creek on property previously owned by Erwin Mills. The mill management may have tried to bury these tokens

in the Cape Fear River when Duke, N.C. became Erwin, N.C. in 1927.

I have confirmed that most "Couch's Kwik-Kar Wash" tokens, like the one pictured below, had a comparable fate.



Couch issued tokens in 5 cent and 25 cent denominations as well – for use in 2 locations in Durham, N.C. The business prospered from the 1960's forward, and only recently was closed by the owner. When I asked him what he did with his remaining stock, he said he had put them out for garbage pick-up. These tokens are the highest valued NC car wash tokens in the 2004 edition of Car Wash Tokens of North America.

In the adjoining state of South Carolina, the owners of Limestone Mills in Gaffney ordered large quantities of tokens from Orco diesinkers for their company store. According to a Gaffney native I recently met, when the mill property was eventually sold, the owners put their remainders into metal drums, buried them where buildings were being demolished, and covered everything with concrete. The Limestone tokens exist in several varieties, including the scarce error variety which locates the Limestone Mills Store in Gaffney, N.C.



Such reasons for scarcity are not unique to Carolina tokens. But scarcity is a key feature which attracts many Americans who were formerly numismatists to exonumia. We enjoy the twin pleasures of the hunt for hard-to-find tokens, and the research which explains why the hunt took so long.

New Finds from South Carolina

Tony Chibbaro

Both new finds in this issue are from lumber companies. The first new find came to light on eBay back in December. It is not a new company, as far as tokens are concerned, there are a few 5 cents tokens from the company in collections across the Southeast. But this is the first 50 cents denomination known from the Brown-Ingram Lumber Company of Poston, SC. All other tokens known, up until December, were 5 cents denominations. In fact, there are actually three different minor die varieties of these 5 cents tokens, hinting at the fact that the company must have made multiple reorders for tokens. But if that is the case, where are all the larger denominations? This one is a start, but there must be 1 dollar tokens, 25¢, and 10¢ tokens somewhere out there also.



Brown-Ingram Lumber Company, GF 50 IM, round, brass, 31mm

The company was first listed in business directories in 1923 and last listed in 1926. It probably had some relation to the Charles Ingram Lumber Company of Florence, the Ingram-Dargan Lumber Company of Hemingway, and Ingram & McCoy of McBee. All these concerns were lumber-related and more research needs to be done

to piece together the exact business relationship between all four.

The second token for this issue has been in my collection for a number of years. I purchased it from the collection of lumber scrip collector Bill Williams of Knoxville, Tenn. I was fortunate to have been offered many of the tokens in Bill's collection by his son Mike, after his father had passed away. When I bought it, I had no clear idea of where it was issued, but somewhere in the back of my mind I remembered seeing a listing for this company in old South Carolina business directories.



Atlantic Lumber Company, 5¢, round, brass, 25mm, all lettering incuse

This past month, while checking data for another merchant in old directories, I came across a listing for the company. The Atlantic Lumber Company was listed in the 1885 and 1886 Bradstreet business directories under the town of Yemassee in Beaufort County. Those years, early for lumbering in South Carolina, coincide with the style of the token – incuse lettering with an “AL Co” monogram on the reverse. Virtually all of the incuse tokens from South Carolina of this style date from the 1880s, so I feel fairly secure about the attribution. Although I do not know where or from whom Bill Williams purchased this token, undoubtedly it hails from the Atlantic Seaboard and I'll place it under Yemassee, SC unless something more compelling comes to light.

**MAIL YOUR 2010 DUES TO BOB KING TODAY
MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO CARTS**

NORTH CAROLINA NEW FINDS

Bob King



A.A. KLUTTZ'S / (BOWTIE) / VARIETY / STORE // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE – RD, BR 21 Rare

Adam Alexander Klutz was in business in Chapel Hill from 1885 until his death in the fall of 1926. He was called Dr. Klutz because he attended medical school for 2 years, leaving without a degree. He and his wife were loved by everyone and after hiring a manager he spent his time playing checkers and talking to locals. He sold just about everything in his store including fancy goods, tobacco, books, men's furnishings, confections and general store goods. His wife Ora ran a boarding house that was popular with students and visitors alike.



W.L. HAND & CO. / (ORN) / CHARLOTTE, / N.C. // GOOD FOR ONE / 5 / CENTS / GLASS OF SODA – RD, AL 25 Rare

W.L. Hand and Company is listed from 1902 through 1923 as wholesale and retail drugs. In 1924 the listing becomes W.L. Hand Medicine Company, a manufacturer of drugs. This listing continues through 1930. In 1931 W.L. Hand isn't

listed but a listing for Hand Liv-O-Lax Medicine Company may be a continuation of the business. This token is from the 1902 through 1923 time period.



ELI CAGLE / LITTLE / MILLS, / N.C. // GOOD FOR / 5 / IN MERCHANTIALE – RD, BR 19 Rare

Little's Mills is found in print as Little Mills, Littles Mills, Little Mill and Little's Mill. A post office opened at Little's Mills June 27, 1850 and was in operation until September 30, 1913 when the mail was forwarded to Mangum. Little's Mills was located in the Northwest of Richmond County near Montgomery County on Highway 73. No information has been found on Eli Cagle's business. The 1910 Census lists Eli Cagle as a 33 year old white farmer in the Steeles Township. Using the preceding information and the fact that the post office was closed in 1913 one can conclude that Mr. Cagle was in business sometime between 1895 and 1913.



WARD'S / (ORN) / PHARMACY / ROWLAND / N.C. // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / CIGAR OR SODA – RD, AL 19 Rare

Ward's Pharmacy is listed from 1913 through 1918. There isn't a listing in 1912 but in 1911 and earlier H.B. Ward is listed as drugs.

DON'T FORGET! IF YOU HAVE NOT MAILED YOUR DUES FOR 2010, DO IT NOW.

You'll be glad you did.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

ANDERSON, SC ORR-GRAY DRUG STORE TOKENS; “GOOD FOR ONE 5 CENT CIGAR”, BU, R4 in SC catalog, \$20.00 and “GOOD FOR ONE 5 CENT SODA”, circulated, R8 in SC catalog, \$10.00. Both \$25.00. John Speer, 508 Allenby Road, Anderson, SC 29621.

SALE OR TRADE

DURHAM (N.C.) CITY SCHOOLS CAFETERIAS “ELE” TOKEN // BLANK, BEADED REVERSE. Probable pre-1930’s issue. Prefer trading for a comparably scarce NC mill token. Lamar Bland: blandl@elon.edu. 919-383-6514.

WANTED

WILL PAY \$200 FOR THE FIRST METAL TOKEN IN NICE CONDITION FROM THE PACOLET MANUFACTURING COMPANY OR THE CLIFTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 (803-252-1881) chibbaro@mindspring.com

I WANT TOKENS FROM ANY PEANUT COMPANY – Planters, Columbian, Spanish National, what have you – from NC, VA, anywhere. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah NC 28729, ELADON@MORRISBB.NET.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF CARTS WILL BE SATURDAY,
APRIL 24, 2010 AT THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS IN
CLEMMONS, NC.**

CARTS Membership and Dues: Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonumia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.